Forget polls: They're leaning toward Ford

WHAT'S THE "TYPICAL" American thinking?

Millions of dollars are being spent with the pollsters to answer that question, particularly by politicians in this election year.

We decided to invest a dime — make that 20 cents — in a telephone call to get the answer for our readers.

Why pay more? He lives in Rolling Meadows.

Richard Johnson was decreed the "typical" American voter in 1972 by the Public Affairs Center for Television, Washington, D.C., and his impressions of the 1972 presidential campaign could easily have been used to accurately predict the outcome of that election.

HOW IS HE GOING to vote in 1976? Johnson and his wife, Mary Ann, are unde-

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'Typical' American's views: doesn't like guns or Reagan

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cided. But at the moment, they're both leaning toward Ford, if Kennedy or Humphrey don't run.

Sparing no expense, here are the "typical" American's views:

• **Kennedy:** "I've always been a Kennedy family man. They have the background, the contacts. They could get a job done. Even with their wealth, they are concerned about the blue-collar workers."

• **Ford:** "The powers to be are well in charge now. If things continue as they're going . . . with Ford, it will be important to see who is vice president. Maybe this is home state, but I've always liked Percy."

• **Reagan:** "I wouldn't vote for Reagan. With his background — that's right, as the movie star — I don't think he's qualified."

• **Other Democrats:** "I know I wouldn't vote for Wallace. Same for Carter. They're from the South to a degree. It's partly because of racial problems. I think he [Wallace] still has that hate . . . Bayh is out of the question . . . I don't know about Jackson . . . I don't know anything about Harris. He's the one from Oklahoma, right?"

• **Humphrey:** "Little Humphrey, with his squeaky voice and all. I like him. I think he's very honest and for the people," Mary Ann said.

• **James Thompson** [GOP gubernatorial candidate]: "I'll probably vote for Thompson. I don't like Walker or Howlett." [Johnson voted for Walker in 1972.]

Johnson sees the 1976 campaign issues to be employment, inflation, and taxes. Mary Ann sees inflation, abortion, and education.

• **Employment:** Richard — "To give money to the companies [to create more jobs] is bunk. I'd rather see the government make jobs. I think companies would lean toward people of their own type . . . I don't trust big business."

Mary Ann — "I don't agree. Government jobs would only hold off a disaster. They must be created within big business."

• **Abortion:** Mary Ann — "I'm semi-involved in pro-life."

Richard — "I'm against abortion."

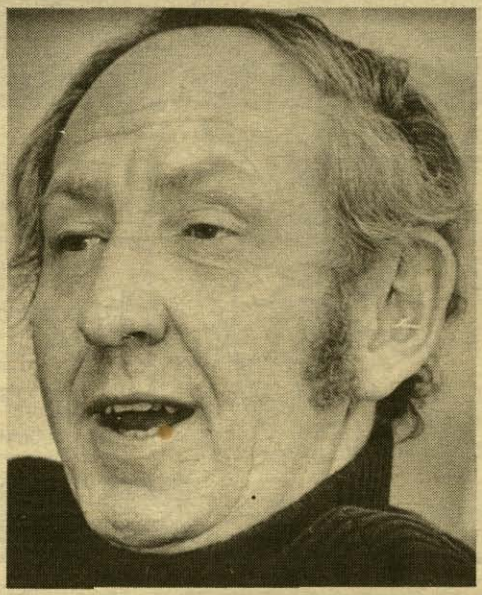
• **Subsidized housing:** Richard — "I wouldn't welcome subsidized housing. If they make every effort on their own and still need help that's one thing. But — "

• **Guns:** Richard — "I want gun control."

• **Busing:** Richard — "I don't like busing."

• **ERA:** Mary Ann — "It's tipping the other way now. I enjoy being a woman. I don't pretend to fill a man's shoes. Women should be paid the same, but I don't believe women should go to war with guns."

Richard — "I haven't given it much thought."



Johnson: likes the Kennedys